

**Women's Education Leaders of Virginia (WELV) of Central Virginia Presents:
Overcoming Obstacles, Learning, and Lifting
June 23, 2017, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
Central Virginia Community College Merritt Hall
\$25, includes lunch**

**To register, please fill out the google form at the following URL: goo.gl/pljTOH
Registration is due by June 1st, only 60 spaces available!!**

Keynotes by:



**Dr. Kathleen Smith
Director, AdvancEd**

Dr. Kathleen M. Smith has been an educator since 1975. She is currently the Director for AdvancEd Virginia in the division of accreditation. Her work as the Director of the Office of School Improvement with the Virginia Department of Education has provided experience in school and district improvement. Her past experience as a special educator, alternative education specialist, career and technical director, pre-school specialist, and school improvement specialist provide a diverse background as a reference point to support schools and districts. Her career in the public school system as well as public education has been working with diverse student populations. She received her doctorate from The College of William and Mary. Her dissertation, *The Impact of District Climate on Student Achievement*, was a culmination of her desire to support districts in finding systemic avenues to improve outcomes for students.

On January 28, 2013, at the age of 38, successful business woman and Lynchburg entrepreneur Leecy Fink was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer. As a mother of 5 children (ranging in age from one to fifteen), Leecy was faced with what could have been a very scary battle; however, she's approached her fight with reverence— she looks at her cancer diagnosis as an opportunity to positively affect the lives of others.



**Leecy Fink
Lynchburg Business Owner**

Workshops by:



**Joleen Booth
Associate Director of Admissions,
LU School of Law**

Joleen studied Business Administration and Criminal Justice in both undergraduate and graduate studies at Liberty University. She has worked for Liberty University School of Law for the past 12 years and is presently employed as the Associate Director of Admissions for the School of Law. She is a member of the Board of Directors of CASA of Central Virginia, and has served as a CASA volunteer for Franklin and Pittsylvania County. She has partnered with several nonprofit organizations to promote child abuse prevention initiatives, and has been a guest speaker at local high schools and hospitals sharing her daughter's survival story. Joleen's daughter is the survivor of child abuse.

Lee-Ann O'Dell is the Director of the Criminal Justice Education Programs of the National Academy of the FBI, on behalf of the University of Virginia. Ms. O'Dell planned to become a licensed clinical social worker, earning a degree in sociology, but her career took a different route when she took a part-time position in undergraduate admissions at the College of William and Mary. Re-discovering her love of life on a college campus, she began graduate studies and never looked back. Ms. O'Dell has been with the University of Virginia since 1998.



**Lee Ann O'Dell
Director of Criminal Justice Education Programs, UVA**

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Workshops by:



Allison Overstreet Stronza
Director, CASA of Central Virginia

Allison Stronza is the Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Central Virginia. Prior to her time at CASA, she served 12 years as Executive Director of Rush Homes, a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing options for people with disabilities. Allison is a board member of her children's PTA as well as the Exchange Club of Lynchburg and has served on the board of the Central Virginia Homeless Coalition and Interfaith Outreach Association. In 2012, she was honored as one of the "Top 40 Under 40 in Housing" in Virginia and in 2016 she was honored as one of the "Top 20 Under 40: Millennials on the Move" by Lynchburg Business Magazine.

Amy Snead is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. She completed her undergraduate work in Secondary English Education at the University of Pittsburgh and received her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Temple University. She spent eleven years teaching high school and middle school English in Philadelphia and Reading, PA, Baltimore, MD and New Jersey before relocating to Virginia in 2010. In 2010 she became one of the assistant principals at Amherst County High School. In June 2016 she was named principal of Amherst Middle School.



Amy Snead
Principal, Amherst Middle School



Elise Spontarelli
Executive Director, Vector Space
Owner, GetCreative Web Design

Elise currently serves as the Executive Director for Vector Space located in Lynchburg, VA. Vector Space is a nonprofit "Makerspace" which is a physical place for students and adults interested in science, technology, engineering, art, and math to collaborate, invent, discover, and build. Elise is also the owner of GetCreative Web Design and specializes in graphic design, web design, and photography. Spontarelli holds a BA in Visual Communications from the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS BY:



Cheryl Giggetts
Senior Vice President, AECOM



Cathie Brown
VP/CISO, Governance, Risk and Compliance
Services at Impact Makers



Elizabeth Narehood
Coordinator of Workforce Development
Workforce Solutions